

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/BR:SLOW:LAS

8/31/72 EXT 20913

APPROVED BY ARA:JBKUBISCH

H:KJENKINS

S/FA-COA:AMB. MCKERNAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174157

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT: PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR FOR HOUSE HEARINGS ON
SHRIMP FISHING AGREEMENT

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH

1. ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN HAS TAKEN SOUNDINGS ON THE HILL REGARDING THE PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR SHRIMP FISHING AGREEMENT. HIS IMPRESSION GENERALLY IS THAT THERE IS SOME STRONG SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE BUT THAT IN ORDER FOR THIS SUPPORT TO ASSERT ITSELF AGAINST THE OPPOSITION, OF WHICH YOU ARE AWARE, IT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY FOR THE USG TO MAKE A NEW STRONG APPEAL. THE HOUSE COMMITTEE INDICATED THAT AN EFFECTIVE WAY FOR SUCH AN APPEAL WOULD BE THROUGH EXECUTIVE HEARINGS AT WHICH YOU AND DON MCKERNAN WOULD TESTIFY.

2. I BELIEVE, AND ASSUME YOU AGREE, THAT THIS ISSUE IS AT PRESENT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IN US-BRAZIL RELATIONS
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AND THAT NO EFFORT SHOULD BE SPARED TO OBTAIN PROMPT PASSAGE

OF THE LEGISLATION. DON MCKERNAN RECOMMENDS STRONGLY THAT YOU AGREE TO APPEAR FOR THESE HEARINGS IF THEY PROVE NECESSARY. I FEEL THE SAME WAY AND WOULD LIKE TO ASK THAT YOU AGREE THAT WE INFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THAT YOU HAVE OFFERED TO RETURN ON CONSULTATION TO TESTIFY IF HE FELT IT IMPORTANT YOU DO SO. I UNDERSTAND THIS MIGHT CONFLICT WITH YOUR EFFORT TO VISIT ALL THE POSTS IN BRAZIL IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME FOLLOWING YOUR ARRIVAL BUT I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SCHEDULE SUCH A RETURN IF IT PROVES NECESSARY. THE HEARINGS WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE AFTER THE LABOR DAY RECESS. WE WILL BE TAKING FURTHER SOUNDINGS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION SOONEST SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH SENIOR CONGRESSMEN INVOLVED. ROGERS

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